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QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION
ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND
RELATED MATTERS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 4 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the position of the Government of Mongolia concerning some questions of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under item 59 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jargalsaikhany ENKHSAIKHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/52/50.

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ANNEX

Position of the Government of Mongolia concerning some questions of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

The principled position of the Government of Mongolia on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council is well known. It has been expressed on a number of occasions by its representatives and is reflected in the official reply of the Mongolian Government, contained in document A/48/264/Add.3.

The negotiations that have been held on these questions at the United Nations, especially within the framework of the open-ended working group on this issue, have shown that Mongolia's position coincides with that of the vast majority of States Members of the United Nations.

These negotiations have also shown that matters other than those relating to equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council merit no less attention than the question of membership.

The Government of Mongolia believes that fuller participation by States Members of the United Nations that are not members of the Council (non-members of the Council) in the latter's proceedings should be encouraged, especially in the discussion of questions brought before the Council that affect the specific interests of those States. This would be in line with the spirit of the democratization process and of increased transparency in the functioning of the principal organs of the United Nations in general, and of the Security Council in particular. It would enhance the effectiveness of the Council and promote just and lasting solutions to the questions tackled by the Council. In this regard, the Government of Mongolia fully supports the proposal to interpret Article 31 of the Charter of the United Nations to mean that the notion "discussion" includes informal consultations, where, as a rule, most of the substantive discussions take place (see A/50/47/Add.1, annex X).

Furthermore, Mongolia believes that fuller participation in the proceedings of the Council by non-members whose interests are being affected should not be limited to making formal statements or to participating in informal consultations, however important they may be. Participation by non-members of the Council should be enhanced even in formal meetings, where official records are kept and where decisions on procedural issues could influence the debate and thus the consideration of draft resolutions and decisions.

Thus non-members should be entitled to participate to a fuller extent, without a vote, in the proceedings of the Council when it is considering issues that specifically affect the interests of those States. That participation could cover the inclusion or non-inclusion of the item on the Council's agenda; the submission of proposals and draft resolutions (so far allowed only with respect to questions considered under Article 32 of the Charter) which may be put to the vote at the request of any Council member; putting questions; making

clarifications; giving replies; proposing substantive or procedural motions for the Council's consideration; putting forward motions concerning the competence of the Council to consider a given question; and having access to all relevant documentation as well as the right to distribute documents relevant to the question under consideration.

Moreover, non-members of the Council should be entitled to participate in the work of the subsidiary organs (commissions and committees) established for consideration of the questions referred to in Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as in the discussion of their reports by the Council.

Mongolia believes that these changes could be institutionalized by amending the relevant provisions of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council without necessarily amending the Charter of the United Nations.